REPLY UNDER 37 CFR 1.116 - EXPEDIATED PROCEDURE - EXAMINATG GROUP 1762

Claim 1. A process for the preparation of organically modified aerogels with permanently hydrophobic surface groups, comprising:

- a. introducing a lyogel into a reactor;
- b. washing the lyogel introduced into the reactor in step a) essentially free of water with an organic solvent;
- c. surface-silylating the lyogel obtained in step b) with a surface-silylating agent to produce a surface-silylated lyogel; and
- d. drying the surface-silylated lyogel obtained in step c) to obtain an aerogel, wherein the surface-silylating agent in step c) comprises a disiloxane of formula I

 $R_3Si-O-SiR_3$ (I)

wherein the residues R, independently of one another, identically or differently, signify in each case a hydrogen atom or a nonreactive organic residue that is linear, branched, cyclic, saturated or unsaturated, or aromatic or heteroaromatic.

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